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Phi Sigma

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The Voice

of THE

Phi Sigma

VOL 4

NO. 3

Jan 1882

A. H. Beard.

Editor.

The Voice
of the
"The Sigma."

Editor. Mr Harington Beard.

Jan 24 82

Contents

Editorials
Items of Interest.
Mormonism.
Cute Clippings.
Cable Rail Road.
Review of books.
Daniel Webster.

Editor.
G. A. Thering.
G. H. Beard.
Scissors.
G. H. Beard
Editor.
G. H. Beard.

Fellow members of the Phi Sigma, again we have the pleasure of holding the editorial pen, and in this first number of the Voice for 1882, let us take the occasion to wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year. This is a time of greeting & also of Resolutions, but as a speaker said in our hearing a few days since, that good resolutions amount to but little, unless followed up by something more substantial.

Let us suggest that we in making plans for this year, follow them up.

Let us take hold of this new year with the determination to make more out of it than we have made out of the years gone by.

More for ourselves, and more for others. In study and reading, that we may better appreciate the grand things of life. Of our time and money that we may be faithful stewards of the talents given into our charge.

And in all things endeavor to smooth and polish ourselves, that our characters may grow more beautiful, and we may better fill & fit our places in life. Let us also strive to enlarge our minds that they may hold more.

than our petty selves, for with ~~this~~ this thought of advancement should come the desire to be more useful to those around us, and, indeed, in no way, ~~we~~ shall we gain greater development of character than by interest in the welfare of others.

This thought of generosity, in the broad sense, is one which we should aim to cultivate, not striving only to reach the goals ourselves, but ever ready to lend a helping hand to those who though less fortunate than we, may more truly merit the laurel crown.

May we by Generosity enjoy, and help others to enjoy in ~~this~~ ~~our~~ Year the benefits & blessings which we may gain by Persistence, and Industry.

* Ring out the old, Ring in the new.
Ring out the false, Ring in the true!

1881 is gone, but it will not be a year soon to be forgotten. It has, in this country, and largely the world over been a successful year, and it has also been in many ways a sad year. Grand work has been accomplished in Science and in Literature. Great studies have been made in Commerce.

But many of the men who have been instrumental in bringing these successes ~~to~~ have gone to the grave. President Garfield heads the list coming most readily to ^{our} minds, as the one most loved and most missed. His indeed was a life of usefulness, that all may do well to copy, and one who perhaps more ^{truly} than any other who has left us, has been helping his country and the world forward to a true civilization. Dr Holland next, known so well as the editor of ~~the~~ Scribner, with this ^{work} and such books as Nicholas Minturn Seven-oak, & Bitter Sweet, & Pitcombs Letters, filling to running over his sphere of usefulness. also James Fields J.A. Appleton and many others, but crossing the Atlantic, we miss great lights indeed, Lord Beaconsfield Thomas Carlyle, & Dean Stanley to head the list with many others to follow

Of these we have not space to say anything ^{here}, but in the biographies of these men, we shall doubtless find much in their characters to admire, and to imitate.

The Phi Sigma, we are sorry to say has not made the progress it should have. Doubtless we have all enjoyed its sessions, and have been somewhat benefited by them, but there is in our midst a evil monster - its name is "Slack". We are sorry to say think this, but we have noticed a desire amongst our members to do as little as possible to get through.

Now members of the Phi Sigma you are not members of this class, by any law of the land, but by your free choice, with we suppose a desire to gain by it. That it may be an aid to study, and improvement, therefore your aim should be to gain as much good out of each exercise for yourselves as you possibly can, by thorough study and careful preparation, using the class to help you to a better a happier and a more useful life.

Items of Interest.

According to Bradstreet, there have been in the United States & Canada during 1881, 5,929 failures total liabilities \$76,094,667. for which the assets amounted to 47 per cent. New York leads the list with 391 assignments amounting to \$11,130,932, assets a little more than $\frac{1}{3}$. Chicago only 83 with liabilities 1,865,021, assets 654,330 we should be inclined to think that Chicago was specially fortunate according to this statistics.

A boat is being built in Paris 18 ft. long and five ft. broad which is to be propelled by electricity, the inventor intends to take a trial trip to England when the vessel is completed.

Mr Cyrus D. Field has just made a statement for publication showing the total receipts of money for the late President's family to be 361,891.72 while for Grandmother Garfield the fund has reached \$1,120.25.

The number of patents taken out by Thomas Edison is nearly 250

Illinois raises about 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, taking the lead in the cultivation of this cereal.

The Khedive of Egypt has sent \$400. to a subscription to Garfield Memorial Hospital, with the word that he expected to be able to forward \$1,000. additional. Subscription lists are open in London and Paris.

- Mormonism. -

Once more, in this great country there seems to be an awakening of the people's interest in, - or, more properly speaking, interest against - that great and dreadful evil which exists today in parts of our land, viz. Polygamous Mormonism. Measures are again pending before Congress for its suppression, and of this we should be glad indeed, but, alas! it will be the old story of measures brought forward only to be lost, - or, at worst, adopted, but to become a dead letter, unless there be a determination on the part of the administration, and also power enough ~~behind it~~ to enforce those laws. True, the last presidential message sounded a note of hostility to polygamy, - but even, could we in safety assure ourselves that the war would be waged as hotly, as the manifesto has sounded highly, - it will yet be in vain that we look for any great results, till the public sentiment is much, - very much, stronger and outspoken than at present.

Our leading magazines and newspapers have of late taken up the subject with

no little vigor and earnestness, - and we, if we care anything for the life and prosperity of the nation, will do well to make ourselves acquainted quickly with this "subtle, serpentine, insidious ~~thing~~" enemy, - so alarming in its nature and gigantic in its size.

It would be useless to expect to give or to get any fair idea of the nature or extent of Mormonism from these lines.

At most we can but catch a glimpse of the horror, - and may that glimpse arouse us to new action. But the history of this false religion may be summed up briefly. Glancing back to 1833 we find in Ohio, a small band of fanatically religious people, with one, Joseph Smith as their leader. This man had claimed to have received revelations from God, prominent among which was the announcement that he was the "Prophet of the Lord", sent to gather the 'Saints' unto 'Zion.' Just what was included in their first creed, it is difficult to say, - but they claimed for it then, and have, ever since, the support and authority of the Bible. While their doctrines had, in some part, apparently good resting there (and especially in the Old Testament)

in error, it is needless to say, they were and are, plainly at direct variance with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. —

Missionaries were early sent out through Ohio and New York, and many converts secured. But though Kirtland, Ohio, had been declared to be the Zion of God people, it soon became evident that the Ohio people did not intend that it should be so. Accordingly, an early removal took place, — first to Missouri, and then to Nauvoo, Illinois.

In both these places the Mormons remained some time; — but, though friendly to them at first, the 'Gentiles' soon turned bitter enemies to a people whose creed contained as a prominent article, the slaying of all which its followers might find it convenient to lay hands on. Quarrells continually broke out, and in Missouri especially, the storm raged very violently, and much blood was shed and property destroyed. Finally, in 1846, they crossed the prairies, in different detachments, and settled in Utah. Enraged with the Gentiles, who had not been slow to return their assaults, and with the Government for refusing to aid them, the Mormon leaders hurled their public anathemas

with vengeance, at both. Seeking refuge in the far West, they consolidated themselves by quoting Paul on "persecution for righteousness sake", and cursing their enemies, now far from them in the East.

Thus arose a hostility to all Law, other than the word of their Prophet, and all government, other than he should approve, — and this from the plainly seen fact, that the two, in this case, as in all others that followed, directly conflicted.

It was about this time that Smith professed a 'revelation' on the subject of marriage, and the practice of polygamy first taught as one of the doctrines of the Church. Of course the opposition was very general, and consequently this scheme had to be carefully introduced; — at first whispered to a few, — then told to the faithful, — at last boldly vaunted. — The women were especially averse to it; — their sensitive natures shrinking from so barbaric a practice; but men are not so slow to follow temptation, when the voice of conscience is silenced by the constant persuasion that wrong is not only right, but absolutely necessary to the highest perfection. To us the strangest part of this sad story, is the amazing credulity

of the people. Everything that ~~was~~ is dictated to them by the Prophet; no matter how much it ~~express~~ their own wishes, or ideas of right and wrong, ~~was~~ is sure to ^{be} listened to and followed.

Some are wealthy, but most are, or were, of the poorer classes, and of course very ignorant; this is all that can account for their implicit trust in so terrible a tyranny. Before leaving Illinois, Joseph Smith had been murdered, while in prison for crime, and Brigham Young, his favorite apostle, contrived to gain, by degrees, control of the Mormons. At first declaring that no other Prophet would take Smith's place, but only assuming to help lead them to safety, he became, in time, a far more harsh and tyrannical leader than his predecessor.

If any of the accounts of apostate Mormons are to be trusted at all, no crime is too dark to lay at the door of Brigham Young.

Murder, Adultery, Theft, Embezzlement head the list, shrouded in all the terrible nets of mystery and concealment.

And now this fragmentary paper must end. Of Polygamy, - that phase of Mormonism which threatens most

and therefore interests most, we have said almost nothing.

To read through a book filled with accounts of the miseries of these Mormon people, is enough to make the hardest heart ache for pity, and cause every honest citizen to blush for shame, that such things should be in such a country.

Of the once bright and happy homes now blighted by polygamy; of the young and innocent girls forsaking friends and homes in other lands, - confiding in villains whose every word and act is foul with treachery, - only to learn, how bitterly! that others have long shared a love, plighted without reserve to them; - of the poor wretches, how many of them! ending their days in insanity; - of fortunes shattered, lives wrecked and hearts broken; - of all this night of sorrow sin and woe, - the 'half was never told'!

And - there ^{leaders} are the men who seek and almost successfully, - to make their territory a State of this great ~~country~~ Union; a State controlled, not alone by their votes, for they might fail, but by all the ballots of the women who dare not vote but as they are commanded;

a State, — and when a State, forever
beyond the power of this Government
to put an end to Polygamy and
all its attending crimes.

Certainly, this is the time for
this United States to vindicate its
authority, by striking, once & forever,
a blow, — sudden, decided and fatal.

Gerard I. Deard

Cute clippings.

"Why is a sheet of note paper like a lame dog? A sheet of paper is an ink-lined plane, an inclined plane ~~is~~ is slopes up, a lame dog is a slow-pup." N.Y. correspondent.

A Gentleman having asked Mr Charles Matthews to dine with him, handed him a glass of claret with the remark that it had cost him interest and all (referring to its age) about 4^s/a glass. Well, well, said Mr Matthews give me another glass, I will try and stop the interest anyway.

A little girl on being asked by a gentleman how old she was, indignantly replied she was not old she was new.

Cable Roads.

Some of our sanguine citizens are fond of boasting that Chicago will some day be the largest city of ^{the} world, outstripping New York and even old London in the race. Be this as it may our city is still in its infancy compared with many of the large cities, and yet can ^{now} boast of being the largest market in the world for 3 or 4 of the principal articles of commerce. With a trade in breadstuffs for 1881 of 148,825,000 bushels, in flour alone of nearly 5,000,000 barrels. Of live stock amounting to \$192,500,000, and of lumber amounting footing up 1,853,040,000 feet.

And in these things Chicago we need remember has only just begun, and is at present growing more rapidly than any other of the large cities.

It is marvellous to see the number of fine and large buildings being built at the present time in our city. Recent inventions too are being taken hold of by our business men with an alacrity rarely if ever found elsewhere. Within two or three years we carried on our business without the aid of telephones, yet now in this short space of time

there has ^{been} put into daily use over 4000
of these wonderful instruments
bringing our ever widening limits
actually into speaking distance. Electricity
not satisfied with her work in this
direction is really turning night
into day with the beautiful light
from the many lamps on the
large buildings. The latest perhaps
of these useful inventions which
~~we~~ are being utilized in Chicago
is the cable street-rail-road, of
which we wish to say a few words.
It will be but a few weeks probably
before we shall have an opportunity
of riding in a car propelled in
this way, for as you ^{certainly} ~~all~~ ^{likely} probably
all know the track on State St. is nearly
completed and the cable ^{have just been} ~~will soon~~
be laid. This is too new an enter-
prise ^{original} to find anything in books
in reference to it, so that all
we can do is to impart a
few facts that may be interesting.
We won't first as to the expense
may give some idea of the mag-
nitude of the scheme. The Chicago
City railway is building in all about
six miles which when complete

will cost about \$100,000 a mile to this we must add about 900,000 for machinery making a grand total of a million and a half of money to start with. The company must be very confident in the success of the plan, it would seem, to invest so much capital, at the outstart. The track for the road must necessarily be very substantial, after the ground has been dug up to a depth of about four feet the track is placed in position and supported by heavy iron yokes, in something like ^{the yokes} shown in the accompanying cut, it will also be seen that the ^{parts of} yoke nearly meet together in the centre near the ^{surface} centre, to which is fastened a third track or rather two bars of iron placed about 7/8 of an inch apart, between these is to pass the levers attached to the clamp which holds on to the cable. To make the foundations more solid the sides of the space excavated is filled with cement leaving a cavity of about 2 feet wide in the centre. In this space of course the

cable is placed. A word here as to the method used in preparing the cement, of which of course large quantities were needed, making it impossible to prepare it by the usual method. A long trough placed on wheels, was run on to the track.

In this trough was a spiral such as used in elevators, this was kept revolving by an engine placed at the rear ^{end} of the trough, by throwing into this trough any where along its length, the cement & gravel needed it was gradually carried forward to the end, being at the same time being mixed and wetted, and running out right into the barrows placed there continuously to receive it.

The track is after this, finished by laying the blocks of stone which form the pavement. The Engines and boilers are placed about half way of the whole distance of the track, and are of course very powerful, ^{being altogether of about 1000} There are a double set of these, the second being ⁱⁿ reserve, in case of accident to those in use. The communication between the power and the cable is established by means of the cable

horse power

18

passing round immense shies
The cable through its entire length
passing along on iron rollers.

Of course in the cars "catching
hold" and "letting go" of the cable
must very much alter its tension.
The way this is regulated is as
follows. The cable passes around
a large wheel which is placed
on a ^{movable} carriage having a large
weight attached by means of
a chain & pulley. In ending
this paper a brief sentence
about the cars will be in
place. We understand ^{that} the same
cars will be used with another
car called the grip car. This grip
car will have the mechanical
arrangement, such as levers and
&c. placed in the centre of the
car (with seats on each side) communicating
through the $\frac{7}{8}$ in space spoken of above
with the cable under the ground.

The platforms on the side nearest
the other track will be guarded
and ~~cons~~ warning bells constantly
rung to prevent accidents when
the cars pass each other and
at other times. Strange indeed

will it seem to see a loaded car,
passing along without noise, and
without any apparent power, and
well now many foreigners visiting
our country say, that we do not
walk, "but go in a house which
moves of itself." With these wonders
which we are daily witnessing, what
may not our ~~our~~ eyes expect to see
and our ears to hear, before the
20th century dawn on this globe
of ours?

M. H. Lang.

- Daniel Webster -

One hundred years ago, on the 18th of January 1782, Daniel Webster was born. It is but a year since considerable space was given in the Voice, to a review of the public life and character of this great man; - We shall not, therefore, attempt to do this again; - but we need never be fearful of recalling too often the many splendid qualities of one of America's grandest characters.

It is with pleasure that we notice that at this anniversary of his birth, - with the hush of the bitter party spirit which ran so high in 1850, and the fading of those fanatical prejudices which tainted every speech and writing in the twenty years succeeding, - men are coming at last to deal out justice more generously to him whose character and services, if we mistake not, have never, since 1840, been really appreciated by a majority of the American people. - Then hearts beat wild with passion, and hands were lifted high against a great and shameful wrong, men were not wont to listen and judge calmly of a voice that counselled justice and fairness and brotherly feeling

though it denounced, as strongly as they, the wrong itself, and advocated every just and constitutional method for its extermination and abolishment.

So men sought to see in this man, who would not stoop to conquer, some secret selfish motives for his principles, since they differed from their own, - and, half unwittingly, forgot the hand once outstretched in its mighty power, to stay, and if it might be, to avert, the dreadful storm, which, ten years after he had breathed his last, broke forth in all its fury. — But now that storm is over, things are changed, and reason is herself again. — Now we can begin to turn the pages of history, and see how much sooner that storm might have come, - and, if sooner, how much greater and more disastrous to the Nation, its effects would have been, but for the man whose eloquence pleaded so powerfully for "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable."

For nearly all who hold high place, - the Funeral Oration is spoken, for the Wit to ridicule, and the Epitaph is ready for the Cynic's sneer; - but he whose achievements have stood the blaze

of thirty years scrutiny, and at the end
come out more bright than ever, must
surely have reached more nearly the
primae of perfection than most ^{of them} whom
the world has seen fit to call 'great'.

More and more, as we read of
Daniel Webster shall we, as young men,
find in him traits to admire, characteristics
to imitate and principles to adopt and
live by. Certainly he had his faults,
which we must not pass in lightness
by, but note with care, to shun forever;—
but his unselfish, loving character,—his
ceaseless energy,—his self-education, in
the largest sense,—his pure patriotism,—
his "firmness in the right, as God gave
him to see the right",—all these call loudly
for that best of praise,—our earnest
imitation. ~

Good Friend.

voice

